



STAFF REPORT

Meeting Date: June 4, 2014

Agenda Item #VIA

Agency: City of Belmont, Parks and Recreation Commission

Staff Contact: Jonathan Gervais, Parks and Recreation Director, jgervais@belmont.gov

Agenda Title: Partnerships with the Belmont/Redwood Shores School District and the Safe Routes to School Program

Agenda Action: Discussion & Direction

Recommendation

No recommendation.

Background

The City of Belmont established a partnership in 2009 with the Belmont/Redwood Shores School District with the creation of a joint use agreement for maintenance and operation of the athletic fields at the school sites. The agreement was called for the 1992 Belmont Parks and Open Space Master Plan. The City has built on this relationship by expanding opportunities to work with the schools on common initiatives for the community. It makes sense for the City and School District to work together because both organizations serve the same residents and share common values related to building a strong community, education and enrichment, and enhancing the quality of life for the community.

Analysis

The City of Belmont Parks and Recreation Department (City) established a partnership with the Belmont/ Redwood Shores School District (District) and the San Mateo County office of Education to provide services to the Belmont community, including:

School District

In 2009, the City and the District agreed upon a Joint Use Agreement that spells out responsibilities for the maintenance and management of the athletic fields at the School District sites including Fox, Ralston, Nesbit, and Central. The 10-year agreement calls for City maintenance of the athletic fields, City scheduling during non-school hours, cost sharing on irrigation and City use of certain District facilities during the summer.

Healthy Schools Initiative (Healthy BRSSD)

The mission of Healthy BRSSD is to raise awareness in the School District and the community and to provide tools and education needed to help raise healthy and happy children. The goal is to prevent health issues and concerns that may be present in the school and community environment.

In September 2010, BRSSD was one of 4 local school districts to receive a 3-year grant from the Sequoia Healthcare District to implement a Coordinated School Health Model. The grant was extended for the 2013-14 school year. Needs assessments were completed with staff and administrators at each school site to determine the health and wellness priorities. Site-based staff wellness teams and a district-wide health advisory committee consisting of parents, teachers, administrators and community partners meet quarterly to discuss health and wellness issues on a site and district-wide level.

Safe Routes to School Program

The Safe Routes to School Program is a San Mateo County Office of Education program that is funded by the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) and the City/County Association of Governments of San Mateo County (C/CAG). The School District's Safe Routes Program is then funded by the San Mateo County Office of Education. The goal of the program is to encourage and enable school children to walk, bicycle, carpool, and utilize transit as a means of getting to school. 501c Nonprofit Organizations and government organizations that serve children of San Mateo County request funding for:

- Small Capital Infrastructure Projects
- Walkability and Bikeability Audits
- Non-Infrastructure Projects

Healthy BRSSD and San Mateo County Office of Education partnered with the City to organize and host the recent Streets Alive Event at the Belmont Sports Complex on May 4, 2014. The event promoted alternative forms of transportation, taught bike safety, provided free bike repair, and engaged the community in the bay trail system. The Safe Routes to School Program funded the bike rodeo and bike repair, the City provided the location, staff, and management, and Healthy BRSSD provided staff, registration, and organization. The partnership has been successful for the second year and staff is looking for more ways to work together.

The following are some potential opportunities to expand the partnerships:

- Pursue joint grant opportunities to provide physical education or enrichment programs after school hours.
- Pursue joint grant opportunities for funds to provide access to schools, athletic fields, and parks and improve the connections between each. This may also include walking paths that could be identified in the paper trail inventory.
- Increased outreach and participation in events and activities
- Joint marketing of programs
- Joint facilities such as are being discussed for the Barrett Community Center

Attachments

A. None

Fiscal Impact

- ☒ No Impact/Not Applicable
☐ Funding Source Confirmed: "Insert Acct #, underline if field filled in"

Source:

- ☐ Council
☐ Staff
☐ Citizen Initiated
☒ Commission

Purpose:

- ☐ Statutory/Contractual Requirement
☐ Council Vision/Priority
☐ Discretionary Action
☒ Plan Implementation*

Public Outreach:

- ☒ Posting of Agenda
☐ Other*

*Parks and Open Space Master Plan